

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MAYOR:** Tonita Gurulé-Girón

**COUNCILORS:** David G. Romero  
Barbara A. Casey  
Vincent Howell  
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ann Marie Gallegos, Interim City Manager  
Danielle Sena, Recorder  
Esther Garduno Montoya, City Attorney  
David T. Bibb III, Chief of Police

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr., asked for a moment of silence for all our grandfathers, grandmothers and people who are sick and to keep them in our prayers.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Casey made a motion to amend the agenda by placing Executive session after public input making it Item # 7. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:



David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes

Recorder Danielle Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Howell and Councilor Ulibarri, Jr., both seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Vincent Howell	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

Recorder Danielle Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez thanked the Governing body for allowing her to speak and advised she was speaking on her behalf regarding her removal as City Clerk and Human Resource Director. City Clerk Fresquez advised she had worked with the City for almost twenty one years and was honest, hard working and had always followed the rules and regulations set forth by the authority. She stated that when she accepted the position almost eleven years ago, she took an oath to the Governing body and to the people she served in the community. Ms. Fresquez advised she performed her duties by ensuring transparent processes with professionalism, integrity and accountability and she would continue to do so regardless of where she was employed.

City Clerk Fresquez advised first and foremost, she thanked God, who directed her steps through wisdom and understanding, she thanked her family and friends who were always there for her and to all the community members for their confidence and support throughout the years. She advised she was grateful for the employees she worked with as they work together as a team and could not do her job without them and thanked them and to keep up the good work.

City Clerk Fresquez finished by saying “we each stand for something and I choose to stand for truth, and always doing the right thing, no matter the cost and in this case it is the question of my removal as City Clerk”. She stated to the Governing



body, in making their decision this evening, she asked that they look at the facts, the truth and her character, which spoke for itself.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for a copy of Ms. Fresquez statement.

Corinna Laszlo-Henry advised she was speaking in support of Casandra Fresquez, and in her personal experience she had been professional, knowledgeable, hard working and also carried a great deal of institutional knowledge for the City. She stated that this was a weighty decision that they would undertake with the matter on the agenda and hoped they looked at it very closely.

Ms. Laszlo-Henry advised she had a general concern about the City and the Human Resources department, with Interim department heads in all but one department, no advertisement for those positions and an Interim City Manager. She advised it was undeniable that there had been a rapid turnover, a lot of personnel changes and the impression of the community was that this was having a negative impact on the City's ability to provide necessary services. Ms. Laszlo-Henry advised as they were weighing the obvious loss to the organization which would be letting go of the City Clerk, one of the four City officers, asked the Governing body to think about outside resources they could draw on, to look into how the City could do a better job recruiting, retaining and encouraging the hard work of the people who make the City. Ms. Laszlo-Henry thanked them for deliberating on it seriously.

Lee Einer advised he was speaking in support of Casandra Fresquez and stated he worked with her and knew her before he came on board with the City.

Mr. Einer advised they did not always agree on everything but did support the truth of everything that both Casandra and Corinna stated.

Mr. Einer advised there was no need to respond to his rhetorical questions and continued with stating, "How many key positions would you like to fill with inexperienced Interims?", "How many more circular firing squads do you want to have?", "How many City Officers, Directors, and Managers have left since this administration came on board?", "How many employees have left in the last year and a half?". He stated that the City must be down a hundred employees and had maybe twenty two or twenty three postings open on the Las Vegas website and advised that that was not healthy.

Mr. Einer stated "I understand it fully, when you can't keep the management together and make a foolish attack on people on your own team, you create an

atmosphere of uncertainty, an atmosphere of fear and he doesn't blame anyone for getting out of the City because it isn't a healthy situation." Mr. Einerer advised Council, what they had been called on to deliberate on tonight was not a healthy situation and Casandra had been doing her job, where was the problem? Mr. Einerer stated "when every single officer of the City has gotten the broom, where is the problem or is that just a coincidence, the old saying is, "Fish stink from the head, think about it".

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Casey made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Councilor Romero advised before voting to go into Executive session, he had a question and asked City Attorney Esther Garduno Montoya to explain the processes for executive session and asked if it would be a discharge hearing.

City Attorney Garduno Montoya advised the call was for the Mayor and governing body to go into executive session specific to discuss personnel matters and there would not be a formal hearing.

Councilor Romero asked who would be presenting to the Council, would it be the City Manager's recommendation or the Mayor's?

City Attorney Garduno Montoya advised all matters in Executive session were confidential and was not any type of hearing and the discussion would be limited to what the motion was regarding.

Councilor Romero asked who would be presenting that to Council in Executive session or was it due to the City Manager's recommendation.

City Attorney Garduno Montoya advised the reason why they were there was listed on the agenda and there were two items on the agenda and before the Council would go on to vote in a public manner there was a call for executive session to discuss limited personnel matters.



Councilor Howell advised the question was, who was going to present to them in Executive session and needed to know who was going to be speaking to them.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised that is for Executive discussion.

Councilor Romero advised someone called for the meeting for tonight.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised she called the Special meeting and that they were fully aware of that.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call once again and reflected the following:

David A Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

Recorder Danielle Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Councilor Casey made a motion to reconvene into Regular session after being in Executive session to discuss personnel matters, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, and advised that no votes were taken in Executive session. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes

Recorder Danielle Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **1. Removal of City Clerk, Casandra Fresquez.**

Councilor Romero made a motion to disapprove the removal of City Clerk, Casandra Fresquez. Councilor Casey and Councilor Howell both seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A Ulibarri Jr.	No	Vincent Howell	Yes
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Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
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Recorder Danielle Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

2. Approval/Disapproval to appoint Danielle Sena, Interim City Clerk.

Councilor Casey made a motion to table the Approval/Disapproval to appoint Danielle Sena, Interim City Clerk. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Vincent Howell	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

Recorder Danielle Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

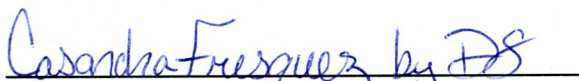
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

Recorder Danielle Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.



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Mayor Tonita Gurulé-Girón

ATTEST:



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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk